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Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231 on 8-23-2002

Timothy H. Van Dyke  
Timothy H. Van Dyke, Patent Attorney

#16/D

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): Bianchi *et al.*  
Application No: 09/782,594  
Filed: 2/12/2001  
Title: ASSEMBLED IMPLANT  
Docket No: RTI-112R

To: Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**THIRD PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.115**

Dear Sir:

Please amend this application as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application No. 09/191,232 filed on November 13, 1998, pending; U.S. Application No. 09/378,527, filed on August 20, 1999, pending; U.S. Application No. 08/920,630, filed August 27, 1997; U.S. Application number 09/701,933, filed August 25, 1998, pending; U.S. Application

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